

MEETING SUMMARY

National Environmental Conflict Resolution Advisory Committee

Teleconference

April 27, 2005

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members and Surrogates

Tom Jensen, Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal – Committee Chair

Dinah Bear, Council on Environmental Quality – Committee Vice-Chair

Don Barry, The Wilderness Society

Gail Bingham, RESOLVE, Inc.

Hooper Brooks, SURDNA Foundation

Cynthia Burbank, Federal Highway Administration

Christine Carlson, Policy Consensus Initiative

Patricia Faraby (for Alex Beehler), U.S. Department of Defense

Harry Grant, Riddell Williams, P.S.

Christopher Kearney, U.S. Department of the Interior

Pauline Milius, U.S. Department of Justice

Julia Riber, USDA Forest Service

Greg Schildwachter, Office of Senator Mike Crapo

James Souby, Oquirrh Institute

Dean Suagee, Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker, LLP

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Morris K. Udall Foundation Staff

Kirk Emerson, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Ellen Wheeler, Committee Management Officer (CMO)

Lynne Gillette, Director of Operations, USIECR

Tina Gargus, Special Projects Coordinator, USIECR (Recorder)

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Kirk Emerson opened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. EDT

1. Final NECRAC Report Production & Distribution – Tom Jensen

Tom Jensen welcomed the committee and informed everyone that this would be the last meeting of the committee. The purpose of the call would be to update everyone on the status of the final report and discuss next steps for its distribution.

The NECRAC final report has been completed and has been delivered from the Committee to the U.S. Institute. Jensen expressed appreciation and respect for the work done to create the final report.

At the Morris K. Udall Foundation Board Meeting in November 2004, Jensen presented the NECRAC recommendations. At the present time, the U.S. Institute will be considering how to approach the recommendations.

Jensen updated the Committee on the production of the final report and reported that the USDA Forest Service provided the layout and design work at no charge and FHWA provided the printing of 1,000 summary reports, 1,000 full reports, and 2,000 CDs, also at no charge. In addition to this, the EPA has contributed funds toward printing and distribution costs. Ellen Wheeler did the final proofing of the report, and Tina Gargus did the coordination. The electronic version of the final report will be posted on the U.S. Institute's website. Jensen thanked the U.S. Institute staff for their contribution and coordination.

Additionally, the Committee thanked Jensen for all of his work as chair of the Committee and on the final NECRAC report.

ACTION: NECRAC members are to e-mail their requests for the amount and versions of the report they would like to receive to Tina Gargus.

Report Distribution Strategy

Jensen informed the Committee that the Steering Committee had developed a list of organizations to receive the final report. He asked the Committee to identify any organizations they would like to send the report to as well.

Emerson added that Lynne Gillette had drafted a short summary or introduction to the NECRAC report that could be used as talking points by other NECRAC members.

The Committee discussed upcoming events and opportunities for announcing or distributing the report. These included:

- Jensen will be participating in a panel focused on the NECRAC report at the Fall ABA Annual Meeting in Tennessee in November.
- Dinah Bear will be attending a small NEPA workshop on transportation planning in California and there is some interest in the NECRAC report.
- Gail Bingham will be attending an ABA meeting in Boston on May 30 and she would like to coordinate having reports available.
- Terry Williams suggested copies be sent to NTEC for their meeting in Green Bay in early May.

Other NEPA Activities Related to the NECRAC Report

Jensen informed the Committee of the work being done by the NEPA Task Force appointed by the House Resources Committee and the recent hearing of the Task Force in Spokane, WA. He was invited to provide testimony at this hearing and saw

this as a good opportunity to present the perspectives of the NECRAC regarding NEPA. He commented that the NECRAC report seemed to resonate with many different interests at the hearing.

Additionally, four members of the CEQ NEPA Task Force were present at the hearing in Washington. Jensen asked the NECRAC members to e-mail him if they would like to participate with the NEPA Task Force and added that the NEPA Task Force had a website that could be used as a valuable resource.

2. NECRAC Activities at ECR2005 Conference – Kirk Emerson

The ECR2005 Conference is the fourth national conference hosted by the U.S. Institute. The conference will be held May 24 – 26, 2005, in Tucson, AZ. The attendees at the conference include representatives of the federal government, environmental organizations, and tribes, as well as ECR practitioners.

Emerson informed the Committee that several NECRAC members would be participating at the conference and there would be a great deal of attention focused on the NECRAC report. The ECR2005 Conference will serve as the first venue for presenting the report to the public.

3. Role of Future Advisory Committee

Emerson welcomed input from those interested in participating in a second advisory committee. She informed the Committee that once the U.S. Institute's budget was confirmed, there was a possibility for a new committee in the new fiscal year. Emerson added that the NECRAC has served a special role in providing guidance to the U.S. Institute, and their expertise and representation was valuable.

Polly Milius asked what type of information or advice would be most useful to the U.S. Institute at this time? Emerson responded that she was not clear whether an advisory committee could focus on implementation of the NECRAC recommendations. Another possibility might be a focus on FACA itself as it relates to collaborative processes and the role of the U.S. Institute.

Meeting adjourned: 2:42pm EDT